



George
LeMieux
U.S. Senator *for* Florida

E- NEWSLETTER

May 11, 2010

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly update - a brief summary of some of the more notable events during the last seven days. I hope you'll find this useful and informative. You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via [YouTube](#) , [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) .



It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator and I look forward to hearing from you. If you want to share this newsletter with a friend, sign them up today at <http://LeMieux.Senate.gov> .

Oil Spill Crisis Update

It has been more than 20 days since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill began leaking an estimated 200,000 gallons of oil a day into the Gulf of Mexico. This spill continues, unabated - threatening to soil marine wildlife, coastal communities, and sensitive habitat from Louisiana's Birdfoot Delta to the Florida Keys.

Three weeks into this spill, we are facing the very real potential for this spill to continue for two months or more until relief wells are completed. All the while, millions of gallons of oil will continue to spill into our coastal waters, leaving our shorelines, fisheries and tourist destinations at great environmental and economic risk.

Oil has not yet reached our shores, but we have already heard reports of the economic impact on Florida. Hotel reservations are being cancelled. Charter fishing trips that were booked months in advance have been postponed indefinitely. And the local economies that depend on annual summer tourism are anxious they will lose business this season and next season, and go out of business.

It is important that we as a Congress keep focused on stopping the spill and minimizing to the extent possible, the damage to our coastlines and our coastal communities and industries.

We need to ensure that every effort necessary is taken by British Petroleum for all Gulf states - especially Florida, because we have the most Gulf exposure - to stand up oil mitigation teams to prevent and mitigate the impact of oil on our coastlines, as well as compensate the affected industries and communities in each of our states. BP needs to step up immediately with significant resources for our states to be prepared for what might become the worst environmental disaster in modern history.

What You Should Do

If you witness oil coming ashore or impacted wildlife, you should immediately contact the Deepwater Horizon Response Line at 866-557-1401. Floridians seeking help with issues related to the incident can call my office directly and toll-free at (866) 630-7106.

A website has been established for citizens to receive up-to-date information on the event at <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com> .

The following is a link to the State Emergency Operations Center: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/eoc/deepwaterhorizon2010/index.htm> . State officials are actively monitoring the Deepwater Horizon Response as well as providing precautionary tips for residents and visitors.

Job and Business Resources

As part of my effort to help Floridians find jobs, our office is hosting job fairs and business resource seminars. The goal is to assist Floridians find jobs, create jobs, and increase their incomes. Since our office began hosting and promoting job fairs, more than 10,000 people have participated including 500 employers. Through these events, more than 2,000 Floridians have found work.

If you are seeking employment or opportunities to expand your business, please consider attending one of our [upcoming events](#) . I also encourage you to take full advantage of the resources [on my Web site](#) . There you will find information on existing and newly available resources, and information for both job seekers and employers.

Upcoming job events:

[Job and Community Resource Fair](#) - Tuesday, May 11, 2010

[Statewide Job Fair - University of Central Florida](#) - Thursday, May 13, 2010

[18th Annual Jacksonville Job and Resource Fair](#) - Monday, May 17, 2010

[Worknet Youth Virtual Job Fair](#) - Sunday, May 16 - Saturday, May 22

U.S. Supreme Court Vacancy

This summer, Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens will be retiring. President Obama has nominated U.S. Solicitor Elena Kagan to fill the vacancy. My view is that the U.S. Senate must carefully review the nomination and determine whether the nominee should be confirmed.

I look forward to meeting with the President's nominee, engaging in a thorough evaluation of Solicitor General Kagan's record as an academic and lawyer for the government, and examining her responses before the Judiciary Committee.

In making my decision whether to support this nominee, I will look for a demonstrated commitment to the unbiased application of the law and an unwavering fidelity to the Constitution.

Tightening the Rules for Wall Street

As the Senate considers ways to tighten regulations on Wall Street, I believe we must ensure mortgage companies write responsible loans. That is why I have joined Senators Bob Corker (R-TN), Judd Gregg (R-NH), and Johnny Isakson (R-GA) to introduce legislation that will require lenders to more thoroughly investigate the ability of borrowers to repay their loans.

I have also introduced legislation to bring more transparency to the financial sector by applying new standards to ratings agencies.

There are currently several federally approved rating agencies that gave their top marks to some of the worst investments. Those stellar ratings made bad investments seem sound, up until when they crashed the markets. An investment rating should mean something, but today it doesn't. Removing their federal endorsement will end the dangerous over-reliance on these ratings and allow sound measures of risk to re-emerge in the marketplace-giving investors confidence an investment's true risk is known.



Commonsense solutions like this will prevent the need for taxpayers to step in and finance billion dollar bailouts in the future.

Military Academy Appointments

This past weekend, I had the honor, along with Senator Bill Nelson, of congratulating dozens of military academy nominees who have received an offer of appointment to the Naval, Air Force, United States Military or Merchant Marine academies. These young men and women were honored during a ceremony held at MacDill Air Force Base.



It takes years of hard work and dedication to academic excellence to receive an appointment to one of our nation's finest military institutions. I am very proud of these young men and women, and I thank them for their courage and commitment to protecting our nation. [Click here to read more about this year's incoming class](#) .

Nominees are current or recently graduated high school students and college students. Candidates are interviewed and academic accomplishments, athletic talent, and moral character play a key role in the selection process. To learn more about applying to a military academy, [click here](#) .

Casework Corner

As your senator, one of my primary goals is to make sure Floridians are well served by Federal agencies. From time to time, I will share accounts of how our office has helped a Floridian.

A young woman recently made an offer to purchase a home held by Fannie Mae. Her offer was accepted. She was then informed that in order to qualify for the expiring federal First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit, she would need to sign a binding contract within 48 hours and close on the home within 60 days. Given the quick turnaround, officials at Fannie Mae could not promise they would be able to sign the contract before the cutoff date.

A member of our office contacted Fannie Mae to ask if the contract could be expedited due to the time sensitive nature of the matter. Fannie Mae gathered the required information, contacted the realtor directly, and the contract was signed the next day.

If you are experiencing a problem with a federal agency, please contact our Orlando Regional Office by calling (407) 254-2573 to speak with a member of the Casework Department. The toll-free number for Florida residents is (866) 630-7106. To find out more about how my office can help you, go to my website at <http://lemieux.senate.gov> or stop by one of our scheduled Community Office Hours in your area.

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